

OHIO AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Cindy Abrams, Chair
Ohio House Public Safety Committee
Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Abrams:

On behalf of our over 800 franchised dealer members, we are writing to urge your support of House Bill 210, which would increase penalties and institute other remedies to combat catalytic converter theft.

Catalytic converters are being stolen at increasingly higher rates due to their valuable metals, such as platinum, rhodium and palladium. Thieves can easily steal catalytic converters from unattended vehicles, and since catalytic converters are not readily traceable, there is a lucrative market for these stolen parts. These thefts are having a significant financial impact on businesses (including dealers) and individual vehicle owners alike. In addition, replacing a catalytic converter is costly and often difficult due to the part's demand and supply chain challenges.

For background purposes, as required by the Clean Air Act, catalytic converters reduce toxic emissions from internal combustion vehicles. Valuable precious metals in the catalytic converter remove many toxic elements from the exhaust gases as they exit the vehicle. The value of these precious metals makes catalytic converters a prime target for theft. The number of catalytic converter thefts reported nationwide in insurance company claims sharply increased from 2019 to 2023. Stolen catalytic converters can garner anywhere from up to \$350 each on the black market, while the replacement cost to vehicle owners can be as high as \$2500. Repair costs are often higher because thieves regularly damage other parts of the vehicle when removing the converter.

In closing, we would like to extend our appreciation to the bill sponsors for recognizing the importance of this legislation. We urge your support of the bill.

Sincerely,

Zach Doran
President

Joe Cannon
Vice President, Government Relations